

Wash your hands

Using the poster

Display the poster on the wall in a relevant position, for example, near to the cooking area, art and craft corner or hand-washing area.

Personal, social and emotional development

- Ask the children questions such as 'Why should you wash your hands before eating lunch, before cooking or before serving or sharing food?', 'Why should you wash your hands after messy play, after stroking pets or farm animals or after using the toilet?'. Encourage the children to work as a team to sort, match and glue relevant pictures or drawings under the headings 'We wash our hands before...' and 'We wash our hands after...'. Display the two sets of pictures on the wall, either side of the poster.

- Invite the children to wrap up and decorate a small bar of soap as a gift for someone special. Provide a selection of materials such as paper, tissue, ribbons, lace and bows and help the children to write a special message on a gift tag to attach to the present.

Communication, language and literacy

- Invite the children to wash their hands with soap as shown in the poster. Encourage them to describe the feel, smell, sound and appearance of the experience using words such as 'slippery', 'bubbly', 'soft' and 'smelly'. Help the children to write and display the words around the poster.

- Invite the children to draw a giant pair of hands, then make one hand look dirty and the other hand to look clean. Help the children to label the hands with funny captions, for example, 'Which hand would you like to hold?' or 'Let's shake hands!'.

Mathematical development

- Invite the children to choose five different colours for this song, sung to the traditional tune of 'Five Currant Buns'. 'Five blue fingers in a soapy sink, squash and squelch to remove blue ink, the water washed the blue away, but left some green for another day! and so on.



- Provide five paper 'hands' and invite the children to paint one finger on the first hand, two fingers on the second hand and so on. Help the children to write number 1 on the palm of the first hand, 2 on the second hand and so on. Display the hands in numerical order to encourage counting skills and number recognition.

Knowledge and understanding of the world

- Invite the children to make mini pastry cases, emphasising the need for extremely clean hands. Bake in a moderate oven until golden brown. Check for any food allergies and dietary requirements. When the pastry bases are cool, ask the children to wash their hands then decorate the cases with toppings to share with their friends or family.

Physical development

- Encourage the children to make up actions to an adapted version of the traditional rhyme 'The Grand Old Duke of York'. 'Oh, my hands are very dirty, they need a great big wash. Let's wash them here, let's wash them there, let's wash them everywhere! Making bubbles way up high, making bubbles way down low, making bubbles all around the room until they pop and go!'

Creative development

- Look at the white bubbles in the poster. Mix food colouring with washing-up liquid in a bowl of water to create colourful bubbles. Gently hold sheets of white paper or card over the bubbles to create subtle bubble prints.

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